

**EAST PROVIDENCE SCHOOL DEPARTMENT**

**East Providence School Committee**

**East Providence City Hall - Council Chamber**

**145 Taunton Avenue**

**East Providence, Rhode Island 02914**

**December 9, 2014**

**Open Session**

**Mr. Tsonos, Chairman, called the meeting to order at 6:00 PM.**

**Members present: Jessica Beauchaine, Nathan Cahoon, Anthony Ferreira, Joel Monteiro, Charles Tsonos. Also present: Kim Mercer, Superintendent of Schools, Robert Silva, Esq. and Andrew Thomas, Esq.**

**Motion by Mr. Monteiro to convene in Executive Session for purposes of discussing: Personnel – R.I. Gen. Laws §42-46-5(a) (1); Collective Bargaining R.I. Gen. Laws §42-46-5(a) (2); Litigation//Pending Litigation-R.I. Gen. Laws §42-46-5(a) (2), seconded by Mr. Cahoon. Vote 5-0.**

**Mr. Tsonos –School Committee returned to Public Session at 7:30 PM.**

**Report Executive Session Votes – A vote was taken in Executive Session regarding potential settlement of litigation.**

**The Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag and a Moment of Silence were observed.**

**Mr. Silva advised the School Committee that a motion needed to seal the minutes of the executive session; motion by Mr. Cahoon, seconded by Ms. Beauchaine. Vote 5-0.**

#### **Election of Officers**

**Election of Vice-Chair – No action taken**

**Election of Clerk – Mr. Cahoon nominated by Mr. Ferreira, seconded by Ms. Beauchaine. Vote 5-0.**

**Committee Appointment: Wellness Committee-No action taken**

**Facilities Sub Committee Chair – Mr. Cahoon was nominated by Ms. Beauchaine, seconded by Mr. Ferreira. Vote 5-0.**

**Student Presentation – Eagle Scout Project – Darren McLaughlin from Troop 88 in Rumford attended to inform the School Committee about his project to benefit the community; painting doorways at Whiteknact School (he formerly attended school there) on Saturday, January 10, 2015 at 9:00AM.**

**He requested that the School Department provide the materials; he will bring the manpower.**

**Student Liaison Report – William Vanner – reported on high school events and activities.**

**Public Comment I – Agenda Items – None**

**PTA/PTO Reports – Izilda Teves, Orlo Avenue School, reported on ongoing project at Orlo Avenue School; they will be collecting gloves, hats, mittens, scarfs for the needy.**

### **Superintendent's Report**

**Instructional Technology Update – Kelly Ahrens, Chief Information Officer, provided a technology update and reviewed contents of a written report. Discussion:**

**Page 3 technology for the test phase – labs listed for each school – we did PARCC in test mode last year; questions about facilities; locations available for all PARC testing; number of computers up and running at each school; Kelly – schedule 19 days to test.**

**Rebekah Gendron, Director of Instructional Technology, explained that the test is given in Grades 3-4-5 at all elementary schools; test will be on paper; an option for the first year to get our feet wet; third grade will get used to the test before taking it on a computer; take that out of the equation. Fourth and fifth grade sample schedule:**

this works at Hennessey – first page performance based assessments; three LA and two maths- 20 sessions needed every day-sample schedule; principal can move; test can be done in ten days; allows for make up; there is a lot of flexibility in what can be done. Second session – one ELA; 2 math; 3 sessions, 6 days; 15 possible days for testing.

Mr. Cahoon – sounds like on any given session there will be surplus computers; Mrs. Gendron stated there are plenty of computers to accomplish this; Martin Middle School has more labs, can be done in seven days. Hennessey sample very much like this; some would like it in the morning; Principals given flexibility for their school; we have met and gone through everything with them.

Ms. Beauchaine – is wireless working?

Kelly – state involved – just completed wiring; will be March; none up and running; not at the high school yet; need to do configuration in third phase. Every school does not have dedicated IT specific for every school; 2.5 Full time employees for schools; work by phone, remote or call in services.

Mr. Tsonos – average reaction time when Smart Board down

Kelly – two weeks; could be longer; 12 buildings, 1500 computers, 70 Smartboards, 2.5 techs to service; 777 tickets since September completed; 50 open; difficult to provide 24-48 hour service; changes this year significant-new transportation system, student information system; will always have a lot of work tickets; average 10-15 per day

in the schools.

Mr. Monteiro - disproportionate – city has 300 computers or so; schools have over 1500; well over 70 in School Department.

Kelly – 2 ½ to schools; 3 to city; currently hiring on city side; full time to go up to 3 ½.

Mr. Monteiro – 2 ½ for 1500 computers; average person 600 computers; two plus week response

Kelly – response 24-48 hours for city

Mr. Monteiro –need to shift resources back to the schools.

Kelly – consolidation split half in the budget; everyone needs support; city side agreed more technology was needed; going paperless; city agreed to hire additional person; she still suggests that.

Mr. Cahoon– Parcc – uses stream video; suggest post test locally as an option?

Kelly highly recommended posting on the server; watched other districts go through it; was not ready; districts could not facilitate the exam; if Parcc clears up, we can do it; first test did not go as well as expected.

Kelly – great idea in theory; we did well by not implementing it; if issues worked out, we will do it.

Mr. Cahoon– are we recommending schools do wireless or Ethernet?

Kelly – Ethernet safest choice; tried with wireless test, worked fine; we have done our own internal testing; bought switches for every school; we have Plan A and B; if wireless not working, techs can take care of it

**Mr. Ferreira –should reduce wait time from two weeks to one  
Kelly – back to Budget Commission time; we lost momentum replacing equipment; everything stopped; now aged inventory for some schools; Title I schools, 2010, getting old tickets coming in for them; no computers for Martin or Riverside Middle Schools since 2008; should follow life cycle and have appropriate warranty; replace equipment; move it out, then will not see long wait times; we have replaced every computer for city, fire, police to warranty; we will deal with older inventory; streamline inventory 3-4 year life cycle; get any problems out of the district; dealing with old computers not in life cycle; she just moved the city to that line of thinking; last two years they have understood if we want to be modern and work with technology, we have to make it part of the budget.**

**Mr. Ferreira – will need a plan; have to meet with the Superintendent regarding the amount of computers and the band aid; has issue with 650; next budget, need a long term budget; 5-6 year project to add to computer base; School Committee not rolling with present.**

**Mr. Tsonos– need Kelly involved in the process; she will present at meetings; show budget implications; this comes with a cost for hardware, professional development, etc.**

**Kelly – will meet regularly; provide figures to the School Committee; this year recommended to the Superintendent that we review schools (Waddington, Francis, Martin) which have not realized significant funding since 2009-10; met with Principals and will create technology plans; group to meet with teachers regarding what will work; laptop, Chrome, etc. whatever works for that school; not a one size fits all;**

Principals have the creativity for their school; minimum technology offsite for teachers; teachers buy in what works for their classroom; plan will be specific to schools; teachers have data to support needs/plan; Kelly will come to February meeting with a run down.

Mr. Monteiro - grade schools do not use Skyward.

Rebekah - ready to go, not sure why; elementary always had standard based grades 1-4 rubric; mechanics of report card there and ready to go; whenever decide how to assess.

Mr. Monteiro – this has come up in the way we assess our students; if we are capable of doing 1-4 why not using in grade schools.

Kim Mercer – report card reverted back to what was already being used.

Rebekah - breaks down standards students are being assessed on; much more comprehensive; grade- national broken down – gives parents clearer look; old one only gave a single source; when she is told how graded, can go to online report card; just a matter of changing.

Mr. Monteiro – he expects will be used for second quarter; will receive Skyward.

Mr. Ferreira – who designed this.

Rebekah – design discussion; sample explained chart; Principal can do any way they want.

Mr. Ferreira asked about 15 minute window; Rebekah – Hennessey late start school; prefer to start at 10AM to 11:30 session; some sessions longer; all based on test; those are given to us by the state

Mr. Ferreira – there are gaps; no time in between.

**Rebekah - explained how test works; 1 ½ hours plenty of time; at 1:00PM another group, different classroom.**

**Mr. Ferreira – aides cut – need to make this successful.**

**Rebekah – all hands on deck; have to have training; sign off on confidentiality; state requirement that we must have a teacher proctor; can have aides in there; depends on individual school and how they decide.**

**Mr. Ferreira –each school designs their own schedule?**

**Rebekah – Test coordinator; we have to have schedule; RIDE can come in at any time; all schedules are given to her; we go out to see if protocol followed; we go back and forth on schedules; information to us December 19th by principals; specific information is put in; we have until middle of January to put in and tweak schedule.**

**Ms. Beauchaine - list of computers not working with dates.**

**Kelly – date teacher submitted**

**Ms. Beauchaine – have new Smart Boards – problems go back to September with vendor.**

**Kelly – wait for us to buy them – matter of money, budget turnover, Silver Spring and Kent Heights have to wait to buy LCD projectors; in 2009, we bought significant number of SmartBoards; replace LCD; ran into budget issues; have to wait. Ms. Beauchaine asked if the teachers understand that.**

**Kelly – manufacturers' defect on SmartBoards – we got them replaced; (59) all free of charge; now on five year warranty; 2009-10 equipment.**

**Ms. Beauchaine – it hinders the educational process.**



**Kelly – have replacement LCD projectors we can bring out.**

**Ms. Beauchaine – still work in progress; it is a problem when it hinders the educational process; take computers five years old; pump up refurbished ones from our inventory; stop gap until something better.**

**Kelly – have solved with the company-email her and copy the Superintendent; her goal to provide as much information as possible and can come to School Committee meeting any time. John Carnevale looking to get laptop Chrome Books for the high school; looking to get equipment for students.**

**Mr. Tsonos – thanked Kelly for helping with our plans; need to help all in order to succeed as a city.**

**Mr. Ferreira – can we get update every month; city handing us \$4 million; off doing the best for us; offered us \$4 million and where does it all go; we need updates; meet with city to see if we can update.**

**Kelly – provides a report to the City Council and can do same for School Committee on exactly what is going on; can see what is outstanding; she will turn in once per month.**

**Mr. Cahoon would like to see what it would take to get the two week time reduced on work orders.**

## **Facilities Update**

**Asbestos Update – Kim Mercer reported that asbestos inspections at**

individual schools had been completed; she requested and received the Hennessey report first; the report requires Mr. Catelli's signature, but will get them out to schools; findings at Hennessey similar to 2011 report; one area received a "5" (1-8 on the scale); different areas; schedule removal when practical; Maintenance Department will be fixing some areas of concern.

Mr. Ferreira– need to get away from using duct tape; repair with two part epoxy; will repair in a more professional manner; within weeks should have different material to replace tape.

Mr. Cahoon – Facilities Subcommittee meeting sets priorities; will continue focusing on spot repairs and asbestos concerns.

Mr. Tsonos – should we discuss contracts at the Facilities meeting.

Kim Mercer – held Facilities Subcommittee meeting on December 4th; School Committee members sit on it; we go over current and existing projects; Waddington lift will be installed by Garaventa; a Garaventa representative attended the meeting and the lift expected to be shipped 12/19/14; will arrive in 5-7 days; as soon as here, installation will be done.

Punch list – High School, Waddington, Whiteknact roof; representatives from SMMA were present to explain some projects which are not yet completed.

Kim Mercer - Mr. Barilla reported to her that Iron Construction contacted him and we sent them a schedule of when the auditorium

work can be done (replace tiles); some dates in December and some in February; will be working on days when no performances taking place in the auditorium.

• Door replacements in three schools.

• Orlo – fire alarm – received notices to proceed.

• Riverside path – gravel/repaving scheduled this Saturday depending on the weather.

Discussion about payment of bills.

Future Projects –

• Riverside Middle School lift needs more capacity and will be replaced to accommodate 600 lbs. Waddington will also have the higher capacity. .

• Bids will be presented tonight for bathrooms at Waddington for handicapped accessibility and a ramp at Riverside Middle School also for handicapped accessibility.

• Priority List – SMMA Stage II – looked at what we need to focus on; next meeting on 12/22/14 at 6:30PM; all meetings posted; usually meet in Room 306 at City Hall.

Mr. Monteiro – waiting for lift at Waddington; an explanation given; he is adamant about finding out what happened; he reported information to a family and it did not happen; after School Committee awarded the bid, needed Fire Marshall inspection.

**Kim Mercer – signed 9/8/14; awarded one week later; Lt. Bellamy and Mr. Catelli applied for a variance on the lift; took about five weeks.**

**Mr. Monteiro – don't know why it happened; he was under the assumption paper work done, inspections done; architect did report; not something she or Mr. Catelli should worry about; whose job it was to know that was required; inconveniencing a student; cooperation from family; find out why so we do not go on to do the same thing.**

**Kim Mercer said she talked to Garavanta about it as soon as the bid was awarded; everything was in order; takes about one month to get an appointment with the Fire Marshall; we learned a lesson.**

**Mr. Monteiro – second floor for this; should have come back to School Committee; have to start the bid process over; he wants to know the person responsible so it will not happen again; no one on public display, but needs to know level of comfort; still does not know whose job it is.**

**Mr. Ferreira– have to figure out what the problem was; not beating up anyone; he asked and gets nothing; should go to two meetings per month and have contractors there; meeting Thursday, only two School Committee members there; should have them here on TV land in front of five School Committee members and for the taxpayers; \$10-11 million and only he and Mr. Cahoon were there; so**

many issues the last two weeks; if not, put questions here; told about life safety doors 10-11 weeks ago; doors would be in late November; install December during Christmas vacation; would do punch list in January. Shop drawings not done on those schools; he told teachers we were looking at a month; asked to go on agenda-nothing; asked legal – Irons no longer doing work here; serious problems with Irons doing the work; we do not get answers and he does not understand why; computers, serious issues; will not sit here like previous years; if not, entitled to ask legal counsel.

Mr. Silva asked what the legal question is. Mr. Ferreira – question like Mr. Monteiro put in a request on how to hold someone responsible when things do not get done; we were told doors would be installed in December.

Mr. Silva– why not informed is a matter of communication, not legality; assumed someone like the contractor responsible for the job; common courtesy to advise when it is not happening; something to address that – why; not legal counsel; format with administration if School Committee member needs information; Title 16 - bring to administration; if they have it at their disposal; if not, who there can get it to School Committee as the inquiring party; the issue is more the process for communication and response; everyone needs to work toward that ; on docket to raise that tonight; contract for doors put on docket to address and the information will be forthcoming; no surprise to anyone if no information; School Committee entitled to

that information; it is just the process we are struggling with: address issues with administration who will get the information and get it back to you.

Ms. Beauchaine – docket items on construction; if it cannot be done, person should be here if projects not completed.

Mr. Silva – can replace on agenda; practical aspects to do this; he likes the Facilities Subcommittee which gives an opportunity to discuss projects with contractors and helps with the flow of information; Facilities Subcommittee meetings are posted, open meeting with contractors there; the Chair will provide a report at the School Committee meeting with the status of projects and completion dates and answer any questions. The School Committee can recommend whatever packet information given to Facilities Subcommittee; anyone can attend and participate as a School Committee member or a member of the public; the advantage is that the SubCommittee arrangement allows a great deal of discussion; best on off meeting night rather than at a regularly scheduled meeting where you may never get to the action items.

Mr. Tsonos – frustration on a regular basis; told we do not know or we do not have it; if paper not in this room, not doing or someone at city level involved; no control over it; bid goes through the city and they control it; stated that the doors would be ordered; why not started and why we they not notified Thursday night. We have

meetings; show response; maybe answer outside of School Department; we do not have control over everything.

Ms. Beauchaine – if not us, need to tell us; 90% of issues with facilities; her ward; people believed doors were to be fixed; need accountability; Superintendent should not be held accountable for doors, but someone needs to be accountable; teachers ask about life-safety issues; promised, then not there. Door is a safety issue for kids; she would like people to be accountable both here and there.

Mr. Ferreira – we should have two meetings and have first hour for construction items. The Facilities Subcommittee meetings are in the back room; different if a company has to stand at the podium for a \$400,000 job; problem no one knows what's going on; he is taking it personal now.

Mr. Silva – now have focused company with project manager in place; has not been case last few years; Superintendent should not have to oversee these projects; someone has to be responsible to the School Committee and the district; contracts signed; on time, and if not on time, why not; dialogue repeatedly; engage project manager; paying for dissemination of information. School Committee should get the information on what is being done; have to have a system in place to see that things get done; people keep School Committee and Superintendent informed on the status until the project is done.

**Mr. Ferreira – had to vote to approve \$11-12 million dollars.**

**Discussion:**

**Ms. Beauchaine – need final walk through; discussing problems from three years ago; it should be done in front of this body; Mr. Cahoon doing good things; went to final walk through on \$3-4 million job and no one showed up. If follow up every two weeks later at podium, why not there; money so tight; we need technology; thankful to the city; need to do better job with it; schedule two meetings – put first hour for facilities here.**

**Mr. Ferreira – who met with Burman.**

**Mr. Tsonos – December 21st**

**Kim Mercer – have a Facilities Sub Committee meeting.**

**Mr. Ferreira – should be discussion about a couple of projects and bring in contractors; have Burman come in; all School Committee should have the opportunity to vote to get a better job done and to hold people accountable.**

**Curriculum/Instruction Update**

**Kim Mercer - questions at last meeting regarding the priority status of Orlo; January 14th meeting with PTA to discuss plan approved on December 1st. Math Night for Kindergarten parents; if any school principal would like to request a Math Night, they should contact the Curriculum office to schedule; district-wide at first; can do any school if requested.**



**Kim Mercer – status of report cards; put together a committee of teachers, central office staff and union to meet January 14-15 to go over changes on report cards and how to make it work in the district; will report back before pilot.**

**Mr. Monteiro – either way, No Skyward.**

**Kim Mercer – what she has designed, scrap and put back a lot of work; when brought back last year, she said “do you know how much additional work she put in.”**

**Mr. Monteiro– professional courtesy; not difficult to convert over and save teachers time; try to take couple steps back as adults; being inefficient and no need to be that way; does not want elementary schools to do more planning time when others on line; Skyward cannot be that difficult to fix.**

**Kim Mercer – will follow up.**

## **Personnel Report on Resignation/Leaves of Absence/Retirement**

### **LEAVE OF ABSENCE**

**Linda Pinheiro-Feola-School Nurse-MMS-Effective 12/01/2014**

### **RESIGNATION**

**Milena Burton -Special Education Teacher-SS-Effective 12/08/2014**

**Kimberly Forrest-Head Teacher-Whiteknact-Effective 11/14/2014**

**Helena Jorge-Supervisory Assistant-Whiteknact-Effective 12/03/2014**

## **Consent Agenda**

**Approval of Minutes – Motion by Mr. Monteiro to approve the minutes of the meetings held on 9/8/14, 9/23/14, 12/1/14 and the Facilities Sub-Committee meeting held on 11/6/14, seconded by Mr. Ferreira. Vote 5-0.**

## **Action Items**

### **Personnel Appointments/Recalls**

**Kristine Rose-Swim Coach-EPHS-Effective 2014/2015 School Year**

**Aimee Couto-Head Teacher-Whiteknact-Effective 11/17/2014**

**Motion by Mr. Cahoon to approve, seconded by Mr. Monteiro. Vote 5-0.**

**Appointment of Owner's Representative/ Project Manager – Kim Mercer recommended that the School Committee hire Strategic Building Solutions to oversee the Orlo Fire Alarm Project and door projects at three schools. Motion by Mr. Ferreira to approve, seconded by Mr. Cahoon. Vote 5-0.**

**Mr. Ferreira – company will forward information to all five School Committee members to keep us informed; company wants to work for us and with us; no problem with walking through; bringing items to the Superintendent and they will put it on the agenda; they will come to School Committee meetings to keep us updated.**

**Contracts-Administrative Assistant; Director of Operations; Security and Energy Manager; Technology Coordinator; Night Supervisor. Motion to table by Mr. Monteiro, seconded by Mr. Ferreira. Vote 5-0.**

**Home School Requests – Motion by Mr. Monteiro to approve, seconded by Mr. Cahoon. Vote 5-0.**

### **Summary of Requisitions – Bill Lists**

#### **Warrant #**

**1462 12/5/14 \$1,668,070.73**

**1461 12/5/14 \$ 99,260.09**

**1460 11/26/14 \$ 713,847.87**

**1458 11/18/14 \$ 19,773.25**

**1457 11/14/14 \$ 1,246.98**

#### **Discussion:**

**Mr. Cahoon – Bill List #1462 - Life Span/Bradley-going forward, keep track of how much being spent for next year's consideration. Also, RIDE line item \$113,610.64 and Ocean State Transit item \$514,136.53; why paying both Ocean State and RIDE for transportation.**

**Linda Dykeman explained that in-house is Ocean State; RIDE is the out of district transportation.**

**Motion by Mr. Cahoon to pay the warrants listed, seconded by Mr. Monteiro. Vote 5-0.**

## **Schedule of Requested Payments with Bond Funds**

**Reviewed at the Facilities Sub-Committee meeting - \$46,000 – SMMA reviewed;**

**Mr. Ferreira – He prefers holding back any bills for Whiteknact roof because he received information that the roof has been leaking; he put in a request for any correspondence about roof leaks, but has not received anything; he looked today and 4-5 ceiling tiles are leaking; he does not know if it is the design; requested to hold payments for the roof and the Barhy contract; (\$100,000).**

**Mike Barhy - top three rating as contractor; prefers that the warranty does not go into effect; he was prepared to release money; contractor said not to release funds; warranty should not kick in until roof completed properly; ongoing leaks should not be warranty; leaking for last three months.**

### **Farrar \$10,000 payment**

**Mr. Cahoon – had a discussion about this at Facilities Sub-committee meeting; specific to Farrar's responsibility (project manager's responsibility); several had questions as to where they have been; as we work through questions, a representative is not present tonight to answer them; recommendation to hold payment until questions answered; this is up to the School Committee as a whole.**

**Mr. Ferreira – was Farrar involved with Hennessey; just those problems; there are pictures; roof pitched wrong way, sidewalk; diverters that did nothing; if they are responsible; they need to come**

**to a School Committee meeting.**

**Linda Dykeman– Understanding concerns – balance of SMMA excluding the \$10,000 from SMMA's payment.**

**Mr. Ferreira– minor things going forward**

**Mr. Monteiro – egress door repairs; drawings not completed yet**

**Mr. Ferreira– contractor owns it; their own engineering firm does it because they need their own shop drawings.**

**Mr. Cahoon– SMMA was present and responded to questions; outside of the five invoices, they feel confident to pay those.**

**Mr. Cahoon – motion to deny payment to Bahry Construction, seconded by Mr. Ferreira (\*amend deny to defer payment until receive information received); amend seconded; Vote 5-0.**

**Mr. Cahoon– defer payment to Farrar - \$10,500, seconded by Mr. Monteiro. Discussion: Ms. Beauchaine – by deferring payment; their services were supposed to oversee projects.**

**Mr. Cahoon – without questions, Farrar responsible for what happened; we lack that information.**

**Vote 5-0.**

**Mr. Cahoon – remaining SMMA invoices; moved to approve following SMMA invoices:**

**40588, 41410, 41230, 41413, 41567, 41774, 41518, 41749, 41568, 41751, seconded by Mr. Ferreira.**

**Vote 5-0.**

**Awarding of Bid(s) –**

## **Handicap Bathroom and Changing Room Project - Waddington Elementary**

**Kim Mercer recommended the bid be awarded to Red Oak Remodeling in the amount of \$40,400.00**

**Discussion: Mr. Cahoon noted low bidder; do not have a concern about ability to do the job.**

**Mr. Ferreira – it is a remodel**

**Kim Mercer – raised platform; dressing table going in.**

**Mr. Ferreira – toilet camera that line; send drain company there if we can fit a toilet; might be couple of \$100, but well worth it.**

**Motion by Mr. Cahoon to accept the Superintendent's recommendation, seconded by Mr. Ferreira.**

**Vote 5-0.**

**Handicap Accessible Ramp at Riverside Middle School – Kim Mercer recommended that the bid be awarded to Duarte Corporation; low bidder, reference checked.**

**Discussion: Mr. Cahoon – field of bidders; good sense of reasonable price.**

**Mr. Ferreira – 50 year business; good to see local companies doing work; he is confident to go forward.**

**Motion by Mr. Ferreira to approve, seconded by Mr. Monteiro. Vote 5-0.**

**2015 Schedule of School Committee Meetings – Mr. Tsonos – the intent is to hold two meetings per month; get contractors in front of**

us to answer questions; second meeting in December will be announced if any.

#### **Discussion:**

**Mr. Ferreira – took a vote as long as construction projects, would have two meetings; slide over to construction; Motion by Mr. Ferreira to agree to go with two meetings to proceed further and question when rid of old stuff.**

**Mr. Cahoon – second meeting a month under Bylaws, second Tuesday, School Committee can vote as needed for meetings; not opposed to second meeting or voting during the course of the year.**

**Mr. Tsonos – decision of the School Committee to set meetings; can cancel.**

**Mr. Ferreira – can do this on a meeting by meeting basis.**

**Mr. Monteiro –we lock in the date ourselves if we have something of importance to address that we do not want to wait on; year out to schedule a monthly meeting; on other meetings, everyone will have the flexibility to meet on the best date for all, maybe sooner than two weeks or not at all.**

**Motion by Mr. Monteiro to approve the schedule of regular monthly meetings, second meeting to be decided as necessary, seconded by Mr. Cahoon. Vote 5-0.**

**Increase in Medical Stipend – Kim Mercer – requested an increase for this year; currently \$3,000 plus \$9/physicals; law requires students to**

have physicals; school physician will do physical; now covers elementary and Middle School; involves travel and time away; recommendation to increase stipend to \$6000 to cover any and all physicals; additional sports would be charged nominal fee of \$25.

Mr. Monteiro asked about local physicians; entertain other interests; sports physicals should be brought back into fray; no frame of reference to double the stipend.

Kim Mercer - \$6000 would cover all physicals; last year \$3500-\$3600.

Mr. Monteiro – what does that equate to; no frame of reference.

Kim Mercer – does not want them to miss school

Mr. Ferreira –can go along with it; to be away from her practice is choice she chooses to make.

Mr. Monteiro – willing to do additional fee for sports piece; can we get under \$25.00; do kids in one shot; we do not have referral set up for students.

Mr. Cahoon– small amount of money comparatively budgeted; could rearrange.

Mr. Monteiro - motion to approve \$6000 for Superintendent to offer, negotiating \$15 fee per child for sports physicals, seconded by Mr. Ferreira. Discussion: Ms. Beauchaine was advised by legal counsel that it was alright for her to vote for her doctor; not a conflict. Vote 5-0 to approve.

**New Business**



## **Middle School Curriculum**

**Mr. Monteiro asked to put this on the agenda; he has been pushing for advanced programs in the district; Middle School falls short to provide resources for those who want to do more; should program what we showcase at the High School from an academic standpoint; he has confidence in the best education culture. Parents only know based on Middle School experience do not know we have advanced classes at the High School; losing families based on perception of Middle School; piece missing there; union could identify appropriate faculty; he asked to have a committee work to develop a program to challenge students and present plan to the School Committee for review and discussion; would like to see a program in place for 2015-16 year; provided articles supporting the concept; we need to start challenging our students; he asked for support from the School Committee.**

**Mr. Cahoon– some examples shared with the School Committee being implemented all over the country; advanced classes still the way to challenge every student in class**

**Mr. Monteiro - money follows the child; goes to charter school; does not make any sense that they have to go somewhere else; better than that as a district; have always been best in state; teachers need structure and resources; not capable of meeting those needs now.**

**Ms. Beauchaine– she has asked for this now for two years and explained the frustration at Riverside Middle School with a lack of**

**accelerated learning; supports this 100%. Worried about her own student going to the high school if not prepared.**

**Kim Mercer – have had conversations about this; willing to look at for future, but not this year; middle school learning a new curriculum, assessments; she said she would look into this and talk to team about it.**

**Mr. Monteiro – not aware of anything new; it has not been brought here; have to take the step put group together. Motion to instruct Superintendent to comprise a committee as suggested, seconded by Mr. Ferreira. Vote 5-0. (Formation of Committee comprised of Mr. Monteiro, Nathan Cahoon, administrators, members of guidance and relevant faculty instructed to develop an effective program).**

## **Public Comment II – Non Agenda Items**

**Hennessey School parents – received report, level of concern with asbestos; air quality testing; Mr. Cahoon assisted with that; exposed tiles; level of confidence being addressed appropriately; no more duct tape; parents want assurance that students are in a safe environment.**

**Mr. Cahoon–will keep momentum going on the discussion.**

**Parent - Priority I school - assessment in fall 2016; are resources available to us; one computer cart allocated; 19-1 ratio; they want to be sure resources available to their students. According to a report in 2014, one more should be there; 30 laptops available for students**

**(on website); 30 Ipads sit in pile; do not have appropriate band width; students do not have ability to use IPADS; need to know resources in place; funds for improvements should have been allocated to Hennessey.**

**Mr. Cahoon – \$693,000 included line items through RIDE; at Facilities meeting we prioritized top items; spot repair was not big expense; fire alarm ranked fairly high; he can provide those numbers; \$33,000 on spreadsheet; Final number \$176,000; concerns about Wifi, computer carts; feedback on that.**

**Parent – is there any order or just random; how does it work for high priority schools.**

**Mr. Ferreira – Refer Kelly, IT Director - should be time line next to item; when started, when completed; if not, why not done; that is how done in private sector; we never follow up; put the paper in package next month.**

**Parents asked about roof and have we been in contact with contractor.**

**Mr. Ferreira – lip service at the microphone; he will get back to you; he has emails from 2 ½ years ago; he wants engineering company who designed the dampers on the roof; pictures showing diverters not working; took two and half years to get diverters;**

**Mr. Tsonos – still fighting with contractors**

**Parent – has not seen notification for sign offs.**

**Kim Mercer – waiting for all to be done.**

**Parent – 2008 report broken tiles; identified as #8 least critical; are we not going to do anything going forward – pie chart on exterior work – alarms ventilators, etc., Sub-Committee addressed broken tile, but is there a bigger plan to fix schools.**

**Mr. Ferreira– at last construction meeting; walk through at night; life safety \$10-11 million from RIDE spent over so many years; not attacking the problem, which is no normal maintenance in East Providence; we need normal maintenance budget for each school showing what is allocated per school and where it will be spent; get away from \$10 million; need a program for ceiling tile replacement and how to accomplish that; he will generate it and put dollar amount it; we have to get on a program.**

**Mr. Cahoon explained the state moratorium on building projects; addressing ADA and fire code on list; we add to that list and prioritize items.**

**Parent – where is the prior list?**

**Mr. Conley – there was no list; work done through crisis management; list did not exist; no budget for capital; work kicked down road for years.**

**Mr. Monteiro - issues legitimate and important to parents at other schools also; not a privately run company.**

**Discussion about the bond; asbestos abatement; bond money.**

**Mr. Ferreira – no money in budget for capital; only big umbrella items done; no money to do work over the years. Plan to allocate money**

**Kim Mercer – no money to fix even a window. Superintendent working on it; focus on big items; should be able to do basic maintenance.**

**Mr. Monteiro – most of the bond utilized; have capital improvements line now; plan to continue our investment annually into that line item, which will grow and allow us to do more projects.**

**Kim Mercer – when submitted to RIDE we went for \$10 million; over next five years already approved and would get reimbursement - \$10 million approved for schools; finishing up bond money now, doing doors, fire alarms, capital money, air quality testing; we have to hire a company for that.**

**Mr. Conley – talked about Farrar, facilities and holding someone accountable; he has a different perspective: Budget Commission and consolidation of city services; moved School Department here; purchasing agent not experienced in school business; Facilities Manager - \$50 million ongoing construction; does it part time and reports to two persons; reason is that facilities, construction; job too big and too overwhelming for one person; he wants to change that and agreed with Mr. Ferreira; important to educate students; no strategic plan; will do over and over again; mire in muck and mediocrity; confidence in this School Committee; overwhelming and under resourced department; we need to focus on schools and city having their own technology and construction persons; he will be an**

**advocate to change this.**

**Izilda Teves – Orlo Avenue School – she had questions and Kelly not here now; in August, everyone was told each elementary school would get two computer carts; (Waddington and Francis).**

**Kim Mercer – every elementary has two labs in each school; problem is there is no room to put labs in;**

**PARCC assessment, plan B – computer carts; what the test looked like; how many needed at the time; two required; her report – 650 needed.**

**Izilda she was not notified and should be brought back; not right; all these kids and 30 computers; training should have started now**

**Kim Mercer– computers in each room; starting with oldest to replace and stay on a plan; it is a priority with district.**

**Izilda – money goes to the high school, not elementary; doors for High School; very frustrating when told computers not coming to us.**

**Mr. Ferreira – no follow up to what is told.**

**Izilda – has minutes –rolling computer cart; no space; thought 60, now 30.**

**Mr. Tsonos – will find out from Kelly; can open floor for public discussion**

**Ms. Beauchaine– if anyone from administration gives information; public should be able to go first to speak.**

**Mr. Tsonos – can have person in the room at the podium; any**

**contractor including Kelly.**

**Mr. Ferreira– if public has question about the speaker's information.**

**Mr. Tsonos – we can take questions; he believes that Kelly provided a lot of information; can make sure access available; Kelly is a city employee.**

**Mr. Monteiro agreed – entire city should know what is going on in any one of the schools; should be addressed at School Committee meetings; she likes to know what is going on in all the schools; report here at the end of the meeting.**

**Announcements- Mr. Cahoon donated his stipend back to the district.**

**Mr. Monteiro – request for agenda item: report on ALC; asked for quarterly meeting; update on priority school; what are we doing with the results; evolving program.**

**Fund Raiser – Julie Silva – toy drive – Children's Friend – hosting event at Knights of Columbus on Pawtucket Avenue Toy Drive 12/13/14; 6:30 dinner; new unwrapped toy; can donate ahead of time (434-3556 Joe Silva).**

**Mr. Cahoon– two items for next meeting agenda: understanding of different types of assessments (PARCC, NAPE); administration to let the community know and a budget review; audit if ready; tentative for agenda.**

**Motion by Mr. Cahoon to adjourn, seconded by Mr. Ferreira. Vote 5-0.**

**Respectfully submitted,**

**Patricia A. Iannelli, Administrative Assistant**

**Nathan Cahoon, Clerk of the Committee**